

## IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 30 and 31 are amended as indicated below. No claims have been added. No claims have been cancelled. All pending claims are reproduced below.

1           29.   (Previously presented) A method for use in a detector device for controlling  
2   access to information on a network including a plurality of interconnected devices, the detector  
3   device coupled to the network between a first device and a second device, the method  
4   comprising:  
  
5           monitoring a plurality of request signals for data between the first device and the second  
6   device in the network, at least one request signal including a user identification parameter;  
  
7           determining whether a user identified by the user identification parameter in the request  
8   signal is permitted access to the data;  
  
9           comparing a predetermined parameter associated with the user with a pre-determined  
10   parameter associated with the data to determine permission to access the data; and  
  
11          in response to the comparison, providing a response to the request signal; and  
  
12          in response to an operational failure within the detector device, allowing the plurality of  
13   request signals to pass uninterrupted between the first device and the second device.

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1           30.   (Currently amended) A method of controlling access of claim 29, wherein the  
2   provided response comprises allowing access to the data when the predetermined parameter  
3   associated with the user is greater than or equal to a predetermined parameter associated with the  
4   data.

1           31.   (Currently amended) A method of controlling access of claim 29, wherein the  
2   provided response comprises allowing access to the data when the predetermined parameter

3 associated with the user is less than or equal to a predetermined parameter associated with the  
4 data.

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1 32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the provided response  
2 comprises re-directing the data signal to a third device in response to the predetermined  
3 parameter associated with the user being less than the predetermined value associated with the  
4 data, the third device allowing for a re-setting of the predetermined parameter to a new parameter  
5 comprising a value greater than or equal to the predetermined parameter associated with the data.

1 33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the predetermined  
2 parameter is one from a group comprising a positive monetary value, a positive time value, a  
3 bandwidth value, a quality of service value, and a content rating.

1 34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, further comprising allowing  
2 access to one from a group comprised of voice data, video data, and a real-time application in  
3 response to at least one of the bandwidth value or quality of service value being greater than or  
4 equal to a threshold parameter.

1 35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising providing  
2 access to a second data that does not require a parameter value in response to either the  
3 predetermined parameter associated with the user being less than or equal to the predetermined  
4 parameter associated with the data or the user not having permission to access the data  
5 corresponding to the request signal.

1 36. (Previously presented) A network-based billing method on a detector device for  
2 providing access to resources on a network, the detector device coupled to the network such that

3 the detector device does not introduce a point of failure if the detector device becomes  
4 inoperable, the method comprising:  
5 monitoring a data signal from a device on a network, the data signal including a request  
6 for a resource;  
7 identifying a value for accessing the resource;  
8 associating a user identification with the data signal;  
9 determining whether a user identified by the user identification is permitted access to the  
10 resource;  
11 identifying a credit balance for the user identification;  
12 comparing the credit balance with the value to determine access to the resource;  
13 in response to the comparison, determining a response to the request; and  
14 in response to an operational failure within the detector device, allowing the data signals  
15 to pass uninterrupted between the resources on the network.

1 37. (Previously presented) The network-based billing method of claim 36, further  
2 comprising allowing access to the resource in response to the credit balance being less than or  
3 equal to the cost preventing access to the resource.

1 38. (Previously presented) The network-based billing method of claim 36, further  
2 comprising allowing access to the resource in response to the credit balance being greater than or  
3 equal to the cost preventing access to the resource.

1           39.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising re-directing  
2   the data signal to a second resource in response to the credit balance being less than the cost, the  
3   second resource configured to allow for increasing the credit balance.

1           40.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising providing  
2   access to a second resource having no cost in response to the credit balance being less than the  
3   cost.

1           41.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the cost comprises one  
2   from a group comprising a monetary value, a quality of service value, a bandwidth value, a time  
3   value, and a content rating value.

1           42.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising passing the  
2   data signal to a second device having the resource.